

# **Chapter 15: State Building and Search for Order in the Seventeenth Century -Absolutism**

## **MAP EXERCISES**

1. The Thirty Years' War. MAP 15.1. Which were the key regions of conflict, and were they national-dynastic or religious in their importance to the participants? Identify the Protestant-core areas and the Catholic-core regions. Were they of crucial significance to the outcomes of the war? (page 440)
2. The Wars of Louis XIV. MAP 15.2. What were the geo-political ambitions of Louis XIV? What territories was he particularly interested in obtaining and at whose expense? (page 450)
3. The Growth of Brandenburg-Prussia. MAP 15.3. Compare the territories of Brandenburg-Prussia in 1415 and 1792. What particularly valuable lands were obtained? What might have been the geographical justifications or explanations for Prussian expansion? (page 452)
4. The Growth of the Austrian Empire. MAP 15.4. Describe the extent of the Austrian Empire. In the east, at whose expense did Austria benefit, and why? What role might religion have played in lessening Austria's role in the Germanies? (page 453)
5. Russia: From Principality to Nation-State. MAP 15.5. Which nations lost territory as a result of Russian expansion? Which of Russia's new territorial acquisitions most significantly upset the Eurasian status quo and why? What geographical history does the United States share with Russia? (page 456)
6. The Ottoman Empire. MAP 15.6. Where did the Ottoman Empire gain territory by 1481? 1521? 1556? What might be the possible explanations for those territorial acquisitions? Were the Ottomans a serious threat to most of Europe, or just southeastern Europe? Why? Was the Ottoman Empire a victim of "imperial overstretch"? Why or why not? (page 458)

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE PRIMARY SOURCES (BOXED DOCUMENTS)**

1. "A Witchcraft Trial in France": What does this document tell us about the spread of witchcraft persecutions in the seventeenth century? What does this document tell you about the legal procedures involved in the trial of witches and how might these procedures have worked to condemn the innocent? What do these passages tell you about early modern European conceptions of justice? What does the trial record suggest about the status of women in the seventeenth century? (page 438)
2. "The Face of War in the Seventeenth Century": What does this document reveal about the effect of war on ordinary Europeans? Compare this description to the descriptions of the treatment of civilians in other wars, even in the twenty-first century. Does Grimmelshausen exaggerate or does this description agree with the other descriptions? Are there elements of satire in Grimmelshausen's description? If so, what are they? (page 443)
3. The King's Day Begins-What were the messages and purpose of the royal waking and dressing ceremony for both the nobles and the king? Is the account biased? Why?

4. “Peter the Great Deals with a Rebellion”: How did Peter deal with the revolt of the Streltsy? What does his approach to this problem tell us about the tsar? Was Peter’s bloody punishment of the rebels typical of seventeenth century rulers? Why or why not? How might Louis XIV have responded to a similar incident? (page 454)
5. Oliver Cromwell-Three Perspectives-pg. 464-What motivated Cromwell’s political and military actions? How do you explain the differences in these three perspectives?
6. “The Bill of Rights”: The author states that the “Bill of Rights” laid the foundation for a constitutional monarchy? How? What key aspects of this document testify to the exceptional nature of English state politics in the seventeenth century? Why was there no “bill of rights” in France or Russia in the late seventeenth century? Was England unique, and if so, why? (page 467)
7. “William Shakespeare: In Praise of England”: Beside patriotism, what other motives may Shakespeare have had in writing this tribute to England? What are the elements in this excerpt from *Richard II* that makes it one of the most famous evocations of England ever written? (page 473)

### ***Identifications:***

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Witches</li> <li>2. Thirty Years War</li> <li>3. Gustavus Adolphus</li> <li>4. Peace of Westphalia</li> <li>5. conscript standing armies</li> <li>6. absolutism</li> <li>7. Bishop Jacques Bossuet</li> <li>8. “divine right”</li> <li>9. Cardinals Richelieu and Mazarin</li> <li>10. the Fronde</li> <li>11. Louis XIV</li> <li>12. Edict of Fontainebleau</li> <li>13. Versailles</li> <li>14. Jean-Baptiste Colbert</li> <li>15. Louis XIV’s wars</li> <li>16. Peace of Utrecht</li> <li>17. Brandenburg-Prussia</li> <li>18. Frederick William the Great Elector</li> <li>19. the Hohenzollerns</li> <li>20. Treaty of Karlowitz</li> <li>21. the Romanovs</li> <li>22. Russian serfdom</li> <li>23. the Orthodox Church</li> <li>24. Peter the Great</li> <li>25. Saint Petersburg</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>26. Great Northern War</li> <li>27. Vienna and the Ottoman Empire</li> <li>28. Poland’s Sejm</li> <li>29. the house of Orange</li> <li>30. Amsterdam</li> <li>31. the Stuarts</li> <li>32. Puritans</li> <li>33. English Civil War</li> <li>34. Oliver Cromwell</li> <li>35. Levellers</li> <li>36. the Restoration</li> <li>37. Test Act</li> <li>38. James II</li> <li>39. Glorious Revolution</li> <li>40. Thomas Hobbes</li> <li>41. John Locke</li> <li>42. Bill of Rights</li> <li>43. Mannerism and El Greco</li> <li>44. Bernini and Gentileschi</li> <li>45. Baroque</li> <li>46. French Classicism</li> <li>47. Rembrandt van Rijn</li> <li>48. William Shakespeare</li> <li>49. Lope de Vega</li> <li>50. Racine and Moliere</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

## Reading Questions: Chapter 15

1. What were the economic and social problems/crises that troubled Europe in the late 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> c?
2. What does the witchcraft craze tell us about European society and the place of women in that society in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries?
3. Why have some historians labeled the Thirty Years' War as the "last of the religious wars," while others have called it the "first modern war"? Which do you believe is the more accurate assessment? Why? How did it change the Holy Roman Empire.
4. What was the "military revolution" and what effect did it have on warfare in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries-include rebellions?
5. Define absolutism and determine to what extent France's government in the seventeenth century can be labeled an absolute monarchy. What did Louis XIV hope to accomplish in his domestic and foreign policies? To what extent did he succeed? Be specific in giving examples of his successes and failures.
6. Describe the decline of Spain.
7. What factors transformed the small German province of Brandenburg-Prussia into the core of what was to be a German nation? Explain each factor.
8. Describe Italy's change of rule.
9. Describe Peter Romanov's role in the emergence of modern Russia. Was he more or less important for Russia than Louis XIV was for France? Explain your answer.
10. Describe changes in the Northern States.
11. Describe change in The Ottoman Empire.
12. Under Limits of Absolutism- describe weakness of the Polish Monarchy.
13. Describe the Dutch Golden Age.
14. The English Civil War-Emergence of a Constitutional Monarchy-England in the seventeenth century witnessed a general revolutionary upheaval that involved a struggle between king and Parliament. What were the issues (causes) of this struggle? What role did the Puritans play in its course? In what ways was England changed by it?
15. Compare and contrast developments in the United Netherlands and England. Can it be said that both states were moving in the direction of constitutional monarchy by the end of the seventeenth century? Why or why not? Explain what made the Dutch so commercially successful in the 17 century.
16. How did the art and literature of the second half of the seventeenth century reflect the political and social life of that period? Give examples.
17. Name the European nations that became either limited monarchies or republics rather than absolute monarchies. In each case explain why it developed as it did.